Message Text

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E.O.11652; N/A TAGS; EAGR, GE SUBJECT; PROGRESS OF 1977 HARVEST

REF: A) BERLIN 6698 B) BERLIN 6542

- 1. A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE WEATHER
 EARLY IN THE WEEK FAVORED THE HARVEST OF GRAIN; DESPITE
 INCREASED TEMPO IN THE FIELDS, HOWEVER, MORE THAN HALF OF
 THE AREA SOWN WITH GRAIN IS YET TO BE HARVESTED.
 AUGUST 17 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) REPORTED THE INTRODUCTION
 OF ARMY UNITS TO HELP WITH THE HARVEST, ALTHOUGH NO
 NUMBERS WERE MENTIONED. WORKERS FROM NON-AGRICULTURAL
 INDUSTRIES ARE BEING UTILIZED AS WELL. ON THURSDAY AND
 FRIDAY WEATHER CONDITIONS AGAIN TURNED UNFAVORABLE.
- 2. AUGUST 18 ND REPORTED THAT 45.1 PERCENT OF AREA SOWN WITH GRAIN HAD NOW BEEN HARVESTED. THIS COMPARES WITH A FIGURE OF 92 PERCENT AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR, AND 90 PERCENT IN 1975. BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, THE REPORTED HARVEST WAS UP TO ALMOST 50 PERCENT OF AREA SOWN. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. EMBASSY COMMENT: ON TRIP THROUGH BEZIRKS HALLE AND LEIPZIG, SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF BERLIN, EMBOFF OBSERVED CONDITION OF FIELDS. WHILE IT APPEARED THAT MORE THAN HALF OF GRAIN HAD BEEN HARVESTED, MOST GRAIN STILL IN THE FIELDS SHOWED SOME DEGREE OF LODGING; LOSSES OF 50 TO 70 PERCENT COULD BE ANTICIPATED IN MANY FIELDS. AS A

RESULT OF THE CONDITION OF FIELDS, GRAIN WAS BEING WINNOWED, RATHER THAN COMBINED, IN AN EFFORT TO SALVAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. BOLEN

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